cPanel

cPanel is web hosting control panel software developed by cPanel, L.L.C. It provides a graphical interface (GUI) and automation tools designed to simplify the process of hosting a web site for the website owner or "end user". It enables administration through a standard web browser using a three-tier structure. While cPanel is limited to managing a single hosting account, cPanel & WHM allow the administration of the entire server.

In addition to the GUI, cPanel also has command line and API-based access that allows third-party software vendors, web hosting organizations, and developers to automate standard system administration processes.[2] cPanel & WHM is designed to function either as a dedicated server or virtual private server. The latest cPanel & WHM version supports installation on AlmaLinux, Rocky Linux, CloudLinux OS, and Ubuntu.[3][4]

cPanel	
Original author(s)	Speed Hosting, Webking, VDI & cPanel, L.L.C.
Developer(s)	cPanel, L.L.C.
Initial release	March 21, 1996
Written in	Perl[1]
Operating system	Linux
Available in	Multilingual
Type	Web hosting control panel
License	Proprietary
Website	https://www.cpanel.net

History

cPanel is currently developed by cPanel, L.L.C., a privately owned company headquartered in Houston, Texas, United States. WebPros is the parent company of cPanel, L.L.C.[5] It was originally designed in 1996 as the control panel for Speed Hosting, a now-defunct web hosting company. The original author of cPanel, J. Nick Koston, had a stake in Speed Hosting. Webking quickly began using cPanel after their merger with Speed Hosting. The new company moved their servers to Virtual Development Inc. (VDI), a now-defunct hosting facility. Following an agreement between Koston and VDI, cPanel was only available to customers hosted directly at VDI. At the time there was little competition in the control panel market, with the main choices being VDI and Alabanza.

Eventually, due to Koston leaving for college, he and William Jensen signed an agreement in which cPanel was split into a separate program called WebPanel; this version was run by VDI. Without the lead programmer, VDI was not able to continue any work on cPanel and eventually stopped supporting it completely. Koston kept working on cPanel while also working at BurstNET. Eventually, he left BurstNET to focus fully on cPanel.

cPanel 3 was released in 1999: main additions over cPanel 2 were an automatic upgrade and the Web Host Manager (WHM). The interface was also improved when Carlos Rego of WizardsHosting made what became the default theme of cPanel.

With the release of cPanel 11, cPanel adopted a four-tier versioning system, "Parent.Major.Minor.Patch" (e.g., 11.32.0.3). As of version 11.52, the "Parent" representation is deprecated, with 11.54 stylized as "Version 54."[6][7] cPanel 11.30 is the last major version to support FreeBSD.[8]

On August 20, 2018 cPanel L.L.C. announced that it had signed an agreement to be acquired[9] by a group led by Oakley Capital (who also own Plesk and SolusVM).[10] While Koston sold his interest in cPanel, he will continue to be an owner of the company that owns cPanel.

cPanel Releases

Version	Release date
54	2016-01-04
56	2016-04-11
58	2016-07-11
60	2016-10-11
62	2017-01-05
64	2017-03-27
66	2017-07-12
68	2017-10-12
70	2018-01-23
72	2018-06-11
74	2018-07-17
76	2018-10-16
78	2019-01-15
80	2019-05-09
82	2019-07-08
84	2019-10-07
86	2020-01-30
88	2020-05-07
90	2020-07-27
92	2020-10-29
94	2021-02-02
96	2021-04-07
98	2021-07-14
100	2021-11-15
102	2022-01-20
104	2022-05-11
106	2022-09-01
108	2023-02-06
110	2023-04-03
112	2023-06-12
114	2023-08-28
116	2023-11-30
118	2024-03-04
120	2024-04-09

122	2024-08-19
124	2024-10-10
126	2025-01-21
Legend	Old version Old version, still maintained Latest version

Add-ons

cPanel provides front-ends for a number of common operations, including the management of PGP keys, crontab tasks, mail and FTP accounts, and mailing lists. Several add-ons exist, some for an additional fee, including auto installers such as Installatron, Fantastico, Softaculous, and WHMSonic (SHOUTcast/radio Control Panel Add-on). The add-ons need to be enabled by the server administrator in WHM to be accessible to the cPanel user.[11]

WHM manages some software packages separately from the underlying operating system, applying upgrades to Apache, PHP, MySQL and MariaDB, Exim, FTP, and related software packages automatically. This ensures that these packages are kept up-to-date and compatible with WHM, but makes it more difficult to install newer versions of these packages. It also makes it difficult to verify that the packages have not been tampered with, since the operating system's package management verification system cannot be used to do so.[12]

WHM

WHM, short for WebHost Manager, is a web-based tool which is used for server administration. There are at least two tiers of WHM, often referred to as "root WHM", and non-root WHM (or Reseller WHM). Root WHM is used by server administrators and non-root WHM (with fewer privileges) is used by others, like entity departments, and resellers to manage hosting accounts often referred to as cPanel accounts on a web server. WHM is also used to manage SSL certificates (both server self generated and CA provided SSL certificates), cPanel users, hosting packages, DNS zones, themes, and authentication methods. The default automatic SSL (AutoSSL) provided by cPanel is powered by Let's Encrypt.[13] Additionally, WHM can also be used to manage FTP, Mail (POP, IMAP, and SMTP) and SSH services on the server.

As well as being accessible by the root administrator, WHM is also accessible to users with reseller privileges. Reseller users of cPanel have a smaller set of features than the root user, generally limited by the server administrator, to features which they determine will affect their customers' accounts rather than the server as a whole. From root WHM, the server administrator

can perform maintenance operations such as upgrading and recompiling Apache and PHP, installing Perl modules, and upgrading RPMs installed on the system.

Enkompass

A version of cPanel & WHM for Microsoft Windows, called Enkompass, was declared end-of-life as of February 2014. Version 3 remained available for download, but without further development or support.[14] In the preceding years, Enkompass had been available for free as product development slowed.[15]

Pricing

On June 27, 2019 cPanel announced a new account-based pricing structure.[16] After backlash from their customers, cPanel issued a second announcement but did not change the new structure.[17]

See also

- Comparison of web hosting control panels

References

1. "Improving the Internal PHP" (https://news.cpanel.com/13172/) . *cPanel Newsroom*. June 28, 2012.
2. "cPanel & WHM's Software Development Kit (SDK)" (https://api.docs.cpanel.net/) . *cPanel Developer Documentation*.
3. "System Requirements for Installing cPanel & WHM" (https://docs.cpanel.net/installation-guide/system-requirements/) . *cPanel Docs*.
4. "Third-Party Software End of Life Policy for cPanel & WHM" (https://docs.cpanel.net/knowledge-base/third-party/third-party-software-end-of-life-policy/) . *cPanel Docs*.
5. "Franchise Tax Certification of Account Status" (https://ourcpa.cpa.state.tx.us/coa/servlet/cpa.app.coa.CoaGetTp?Pg=tpid&Search_Nm=CPANEL%2C%20INC.%20&Button=search&Search_ID=32040310495) . *Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts*.
6. "What's Next for cPanel & WHM?" (https://blog.cpanel.com/whats-next-for-cpanel-whm/) . *cPanel Blog*. October 20, 2015.
7. "Product Versions and the Release Process" (https://docs.cpanel.net/knowledge-base/cpanel-product/product-versions-and-the-release-process/) . *cPanel Docs*. February 23, 2024.

8. "cPanel & WHM Version 11.30 Long-Term Support Announcement" (https://news.cpanel.com/cpanel_whm_version_1130_long-term_support/) . *cPanel Newsroom*. 28 February 2011.
9. "Oakley Capital to Invest in cPanel; Acquisition will accelerate the next phase of product development for cPanel" (https://news.cpanel.com/oakley-capital-to-invest-in-cpanel-acquisition-will-accelerate-the-next-phase-of-product-development-for-cpanel/) . *news.cpanel.com*. 20 August 2018. Retrieved 2021-04-23.
10. "Oakley Capital to Invest in cPanel" (https://www.newswire.com/news/oakley-capital-to-invest-in-cpanel-20609249) . *NewsWire* (Press release). 2018-08-20. Retrieved 2018-08-20.
11. "Manage Plugins" (https://docs.cpanel.net/whm/cpanel/manage-plugins/) . *cPanel Docs*. October 18, 2022.
12. Kirsch, Christian (April 28, 2013). "Manipulierte Apache-Binaries laden Schadcode" (http://www.heise.de/newsticker/meldung/Manipulierte-Apache-Binaries-laden-Schadcode-1851245.html) . *Heise Newsticker* (in German). Retrieved November 3, 2017.
13. "Manage AutoSSL" (https://docs.cpanel.net/whm/ssl-tls/manage-autossl/#autossl-provider) . *cPanel Docs*. October 20, 2023.
14. "Enkompass EOL Notice" (https://news.cpanel.com/enkompass-eol-notice-2/) . *cPanel Newsroom*. September 19, 2014.
15. "cPanel to Offer Enkompass For Free" (https://news.cpanel.com/cpanel-to-offer-enkompass-for-free/) . *cPanel Newsroom*. October 15, 2011.
16. "Announcing Account Based Pricing" (https://web.archive.org/web/20190627215836/https://blog.cpanel.com/announcing-account-based-pricing/) . *cPanel Blog*. 2019-06-27. Archived from the original (https://blog.cpanel.com/announcing-account-based-pricing/) on 2019-06-27. Retrieved 2019-06-27.
17. "Update to Account Based Pricing" (https://web.archive.org/web/20190706133724/https://blog.cpanel.com/update-to-account-based-pricing/) . *cPanel Blog*. 2019-07-05. Archived from the original (https://blog.cpanel.com/update-to-account-based-pricing/) on 2019-07-06. Retrieved 2019-07-06.

External links

- Official website (https://cpanel.net/)